

near the top relative to near the base of said space,

wherein

the first and second holding elements are arranged such that

(a) as seen in the lateral projection, the protruding section and the bearing zones overlap each other partially to enable a curvature to be conferred gradually upon the paper sheet to be inserted, wherein the protruding section and the bearing zones are tilted backwards with the protruding section tilted less than the bearing zones.

(b) two lines of force are allowed to be created, on the paper sheet to be inserted, towards the upper angles of the paper sheet in order to rigidify the paper sheet, and

(c) the device allows the paper sheet to be inserted to obtain a backward tilt ranging from 45° to 85°, and

[according to claim 12, wherein] the first holding element comprises a recess between the bearing zones.

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14.

(Amended) A device according to claim [12 or] 13, wherein each of the bearing zones of the first holding element independently comprises a plane surface delineating between them, at the base of the space, an obtuse angle whose apex is directed towards the back of the device and wherein said obtuse angle is of 90° to 160°.

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15. (Amended) A device according to claim [12] 12, wherein the device further comprises a base, wherein the bearing zones are connected near a top part of the device and separated by a gap near the base of the device.

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16. (Amended) A device for holding a paper sheet in order to facilitate the viewing thereof, wherein the device comprises

a first holding element having two bearing zones, and

a second holding element having a protruding section,

the first and second holding elements defining between them a space having a top and a base, said space opening upwards for accommodating the paper sheet to be inserted between the first and second holding elements, with the top of said space wider than the base of said space as seen in a lateral projection, wherein said space progressively narrows, as seen in the lateral projection, to a greater extent near the top relative to near the base of said space,

wherein

the first and second holding elements are arranged such that

(a) as seen in the lateral projection, the protruding section and the bearing zones overlap each other partially to enable a curvature to be conferred gradually upon the paper sheet to be inserted, wherein the protruding section and the bearing zones are tilted backwards with the protruding section tilted less than the bearing zones,

(b) two lines of force are allowed to be created, on the paper sheet to be inserted, towards the upper angles of the paper sheet in order to rigidify the paper sheet, and

(c) the device allows the paper sheet to be inserted to obtain a backward tilt ranging from 45° to 85°; and

[according to claim 12, wherein] the first holding element is mounted on an articulation interconnected to an actuating body fitted with a compressible element in position against the second holding element, wherein actuation of the actuating body enables the first holding element to be spread apart from the second holding element in order to facilitate the placement of the paper sheet to be inserted.

17. A device according to claim [12] ~~19~~, wherein the first and second holding elements are arranged for holding at least a first paper sheet and a second paper sheet, said device further comprising at least a third holding element and a fourth holding element working together with the third holding element in order to confer to at least the second paper sheet, spaced from the first paper sheet, an initial curvature which rigidifies the second paper sheet.

~~18.~~ A device according to claim [12] ~~18~~, wherein the device allows the paper sheet to be inserted into said space to obtain a backward tilt of 65°.

-- ~~519~~ (New) A device for holding a paper sheet in order to facilitate the viewing thereof, wherein the device comprises

a first holding element having two bearing zones, and

a second holding element having a protruding section,

the first and second holding elements defining between them a space having a top and a base, said space opening upwards for accommodating the paper sheet to be inserted between the first and second holding elements, with the top of said space wider than the base of said space as seen in a lateral projection, wherein said space progressively narrows, as seen in the lateral projection, to a greater extent near the top relative to near the base of said space,

wherein

the first and second holding elements are arranged such that

(a) as seen in the lateral projection, the protruding section and the bearing zones overlap each other partially to enable a curvature to be conferred gradually upon the paper sheet to be inserted, wherein the protruding section and the bearing zones are tilted backwards with the protruding section tilted less than the bearing zones,

(b) two lines of force are allowed to be created, on the paper sheet to be inserted, towards the upper angles of the paper sheet in order to rigidify the paper sheet, and

(c) the device allows the paper sheet to be inserted to obtain a backward tilt

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ranging from 45° to 85°; and

each of the bearing zones of the first holding element independently comprises a plane surface, an obtuse angle being defined between said plane surfaces at the base of the space having an apex directed towards the back of the device, said obtuse angle being from 90° to 160°.

~~20.~~ (New) A device according to claim ~~19~~⁵, wherein the device further comprises a base, wherein the bearing zones are connected near a top part of the device and separated by a gap near the base of the device. 15

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 1, 2000 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 13 - 18 are being submitted for reconsideration. Claim 12 has been canceled and incorporated into Claims 13 and 16 in its entirety. The remaining claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. New Claim 19 is Claim 14 rewritten into independent format. New Claim 20 is the same as Claim 15 was. The number of claims being submitted is the same since the multiple dependencies are being eliminated. No new matter has been added.

The typographical error originally present in Claim 12 has been corrected in each place where the subject matter has been added.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph because the Office